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EXAMINER				
STEVENS, THOMAS H				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/526,506

Applicant(s)

HILLIS ET AL.

Examiner

THOMAS H. STEVENS

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03/04/2005.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24, 27-39, 42-52 and 54 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 26, 40 and 41 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03/04/2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05/21/2007 & 06/20/2005
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-54 were examined.

Specification

2. Applicants are reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it's not within the 50-150 word count. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

3. The attempt to incorporate subject matter into this application by reference to "Rail System" (pg. 26, last paragraph) is ineffective because it's missing the application number and the "incorporation by reference" statement.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the unique global identifier, mapping a particular control identifier, sequence of the first through sixth command signals, T is slaved to U switch, wand prioritization hierarchy, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner,

the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Interpretation

5. Office personnel are to give claims their "**broadest reasonable interpretation**" in light of the supporting disclosure. *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. *In re Prater*, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-551(CCPA 1969). See *also *In re Zletz*, 893 F.2d 319, 321-22, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322(Fed. Cir. 1989) ("During patent examination the pending claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow") The reason is simply that during patent prosecution when claims can be amended, ambiguities should be recognized, scope and breadth of language explored, and clarification imposed An essential purpose of patent examination is to fashion claims that are precise, clear, correct, and unambiguous. Only in this way can uncertainties of claim scope be removed, as much as possible, during the administrative process. The Office interprets the "unique identifier" as broad based and needs clarification upon paragraph 0071 of the disclosure: ***Each device could also be provided with at least one global unique identifier. The identifier would preferably be unique from the date of manufacture. The identifier could be broken into portions, with a first portion reflecting the manufacturer, a second portion identifying the type, family or class of device, and***

a third portion uniquely identifying the particular unit. *The control arrangement could commence in operation with the control unit sending a command to all devices connecting to the bus, so as to identify themselves. Each device would respond by emitting its identifier via a method consistent with its end use. For example, a speaker may emit an audio signal from which the identifier could be determined. A light may flash at the identifier. Alternatively, an IR LED on the device may be utilized to flash the identifier. This would also allow devices such as cameras and heaters, where no clear method exists, to identify themselves.*

For the sake of prosecution, this unique identifier could be interpreted as a product serial number to which is common to all commercial products e.g., remote controllers figures 9A and 9B.

Claim Objections

MPEP 2111.02

6. The transitional phrase "consisting of" excludes any element, step, or ingredient not specified in the claim. *In re Gray*, 53 F.2d 520, 11 USPQ 255 (CCPA 1931); *Ex parte Davis*, 80 USPQ 448, 450 (Bd. App. 1948) ("consisting of" defined as "closing the claim to the inclusion of materials other than those recited except for impurities ordinarily associated therewith.").

7. Claim 26 is objected to because it refers back to claim 25 that contains the closed term of "consisting of"; thus claim 26 was not examined on the merits
Appropriate correction is required.

8. Claim 39 is objected to based on a possible grammatical error: "effecting" should be changed to "affecting" if the claim is stating "influencing" a master/slave relationship..."
9. Claims 40 and 41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

10. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
11. Claims 1,16,17,24,36,40,43 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
12. Claim 17 recites the limitation "said wands" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
13. Claim 24 recites the limitation "said control relationship" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
14. Claim 40 recites the limitation "the sequence number" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
15. Claim 36 recites the limitation "the absence" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

16. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

17. Claims 1-24,27-39,42-52,54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being Bonasia et al by (US Patent 7,219,141; hereafter Bonasia). Bonasia discloses a method of adding a device to an existing or new electrical or electrical automation or multimedia network (abstract).

Claim 1. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system for configuring and modifying a control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship between controlling apparatus (figure 7, element 372)and controlled apparatus, said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system comprising: programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)comprising a hand-held configuration and manually operable by a user to transmit correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements

372, 370,374,376,378)and to said controlling apparatus; and said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)and said controlling apparatus (figure 7, element 372)each having sensing means responsive to said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)for effecting said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship between said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)and said controlling apparatus(figure 7, element 372).

Claim 2. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)comprise spatially transmitted signals(figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378).

Claim 3. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that said programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)comprises: a wand (i.e., stylist, figure 5, element 348)having a hand-held configuration; a programmable controller (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B); switching means manually operable by a user so as

to generate state signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)as input signals (figure 7, the particular functions (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to said programmable controller (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B); and said programmable controller (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B) is responsive to said state signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)so as to execute particular functions (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)as desired by said user.

Claim 4. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that said wand (i.e., stylist, figure 5, element 348)further comprises mode selector means, adapted for receiving separate and independent inputs from said user, and further adapted to generate and apply second state signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)as input signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to said programmable controller (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B).

Claim 5. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 4, characterized in that: said wand (i.e., stylist,

figure 5, element 348) further comprises transmitting means for transmitting said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378) to said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378) and to said controlling apparatus; and said programmable controller (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B) is responsive to said state signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378) and to said second state signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378) for applying activation signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378) to said transmission means (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378).

Claim 6. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 5, characterized in that said transmission means comprises an IR emitter (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378).

Claim 7. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that: said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system further comprises a communications network for electronically coupling said controlling

apparatus (figure 7, element 372)to said controlled apparatus; said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)comprises at least one controlled programmable controller (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B) having a unique address identifiable through said communications network of said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system; and said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)further comprises sensing means responsive to said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)for applying control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to said at least one controlled programmable controller (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B).

Claim 8. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 7, characterized in that said controlling apparatus (figure 7, element 372)comprises: at least one controlling programmable controller (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B) having a unique address identifiable through said communications network of said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system; and sensing means responsive to said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals, for applying control (e.g., home

controller, column 1, line 63)signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to said at least one controlling programmable controller (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B).

Claim 9. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that said controlling apparatus (figure 7, element 372)comprises a plurality of switch units.

Claim 10. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)comprises a plurality of lighting units (lamp control on the handheld PDA, figure 5).

Claim 11. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that said wand (i.e., stylist, figure 5, element 348)further comprises a trigger switch manually operable by said user, so as to generate further state signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)as input signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to said programmable controller (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B).

Claim 12. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line

53-55) system in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that: said wand (i.e., stylist, figure 5, element 348)further comprises a visible light having first and second states; and said programmable controller (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B) is adapted to selectively generate and apply activation signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)as input signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to said visible light, so as to change a state of said visible light between said first and second states.

Claim 13. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 12, characterized in that: said wand (i.e., stylist, figure 5, element 348)further comprises a lens spaced forward of said visible light, with said lens being transparent to both visible and infrared light; and said lens being a collimating lens for purposes of focusing said visible light into a series of parallel light paths.

Claim 14. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that said system comprises a plurality of separate and independent programming means(figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378).

Claim 15. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line

53-55) system in accordance with claim 4, characterized in that said mode selector means is adapted to generate and apply said second state signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to said programmable controller (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B) as signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)indicative of SET, ADD and REMOVE command signals.

Claim 16. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)comprises transmission means for transmitting address code signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to said programming means, where such address code signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)are representative of a unique address of said controlled apparatus.

Claim 17. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 16, characterized in that each of said wands includes means for indicating successful reception and execution of command signals.

Claim 18. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 17, characterized in that said means for indicating successful reception and execution of command signals (figure 7, the IR

signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)comprises a visible light.

Claim 19. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that said configuring and modifying of said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship between said controlling apparatus (figure 7, element 372)and said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)is performed in the absence of any transmission of signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)from said programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)which identify any element of said programming means(various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B).

Claim 20. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that said programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)further comprises means for transmitting identification signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)which expressly identify one or more elements of said programming means(various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B).

Claim 21. A correlation system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that: said

programming means(various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B) comprises a plurality of hand-held(various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B) and manually operable wands (figure 5 element 354); each of said wands (figure 5 element 354)comprises means for transmitting identification signals (figure 7, element 372 transmitting to indicative of particular identification numbers of said wands, (figure 5 element 354)and said correlation system further comprises means responsive to said identification signals for establishing a wand prioritization hierarchy.

Claim 22. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that said system comprises means for storing signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)indicative of a last state in which said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship was configured.

Claim 23. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system further comprises means for tracking and identifying which of a plurality of elements of said programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)is within a physical space associated with said correlation (i.e.,

communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system.

Claim 24. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that said system further comprises means for limiting capability of said programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)to effect said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship, based upon identification of said programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)and/or a particular physical space in which said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship is attempting to be effected.

Claim 27. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that at least a subset of said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)are provided with a unique global identifier.

Claim 28. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 27, characterized in that said identifier reflects at least the manufacturer, type, class of device and particular unit.

Claim 29. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line

53-55) system in accordance with claim 28, characterized in that: said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system further comprises a control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)unit transmitting command signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to all devices of said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)connected to a bus, for purposes of identifying elements of said controlled apparatus; and each element of said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)comprises means for responding, by transmitting its identifier as a signal.

Claim 30. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 29, characterized in that said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system further comprises an identifier recording unit capable of receiving said identifier signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)and converting said identifier signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to unique identifiers, and storing said identifiers in memory.

Claim 31. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 30, characterized in that said system further comprises means for determining a set of identifiers, and providing said identifiers to a control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)unit.

Claim 32. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 31, characterized in that placement of a device indicator adjacent a device triggers said device to transmit its identifier by means of said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)bus to said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)unit.

Claim 33. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 32, characterized in that said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)unit comprises means for recording said device identifier as a tagged device (user tagging a specific function, figure 5), and mapping said tagged device (user tagging a specific function, figure 5)s to a particular control.

Claim 34. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 33, characterized in that said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system comprises means for mapping a control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)to a particular parameter at a particular location within a workspace, thereby providing for direct control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)of locations, rather than control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)of devices.

Claim 35. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line

53-55) system in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that all electrical signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)transmitted among said programming means, said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)apparatus and said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)are wireless(figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378).

Claim 36. A method for use in a correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system for configuring and modifying a control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship between controlling apparatus (figure 7, element 372)and controlled apparatus, said method comprising: using a programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)comprising a hand-held configuration manually operable by a user so as to transmit correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)and to said controlling apparatus; sensing, at said controlled apparatus, receipt of said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals; sensing, at said controlling apparatus, receipt of said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals; and effecting said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship between said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)and said

controlling apparatus (figure 7, element 372)based on said transmitted correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals.

Claim 37. A method for use in a correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system for configuring and modifying a control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship between controlling apparatus (figure 7, element 372)and controlled apparatus, said method comprising: configuring a programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)comprising a hand-held configuration manually operable by a user so as to transmit correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to said controlled apparatus; transmitting further correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)from said programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)to said controlled apparatus; determining, through programmable processes, prior sets of correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)transmitted by said programming means; determining a next prior set of correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)transmitted to said controlling apparatus; and effecting a particular

control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship between said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)and said controlling apparatus (figure 7, element 372)based on a sequential relationship existing between transmission of said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)and said correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to said controlling apparatus.

Claim 38. The method in accordance with claim 36, characterized in that said method further comprises means for configuring a particular controlling apparatus (figure 7, element 372)so as to control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)states of a plurality of controlled apparatus.

Claim 39. The method in accordance with claim 36, characterized in that said method further comprises steps for effecting a master/slave relationship among two or more of said controlled apparatus (figure 7, element 372 controlling elements 372, 370,374,376,378).

Claim 42. A method for use in a correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system for configuring and modifying a control (e.g.,

home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship between sets of switches and sets of lights, said method comprising: using a hand-held and manually operable wand (i.e., stylist, figure 5, element 348)having transmission means for transmitting command signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to certain ones of said lights; transmitting further command signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to particular ones of said switches; and removing a controlling relationship between said certain ones of said switches and such certain ones of said lights, based upon said command signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)and said further command signals(figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378).

Claim 43. A method in accordance with claim 36, characterized in that said method further comprises configuring and modifying said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship between said controlling apparatus (figure 7, element 372)and said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)in the absence of any transmission of signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)from said programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)which identify any element of said programming means.

Claim 44. A method in accordance with claim 36, characterized in that said method

further comprises transmitting identification signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)from said programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)which expressly identify one or more elements of said programming means.

Claim 45. A method in accordance with claim 36, characterized in that said method further comprises storing signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)indicative of a last state in which said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship was configured.

Claim 47. A method in accordance with claim 36, characterized in that said method further comprises limiting capability of said programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)to effect said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship, based upon identification of said programming means (various of programming functions inside remote controller figure 9A and B)and/or a particular physical space in which said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)relationship is attempting to be effected.

Claim 48. A correlation (i.e., communication with one or more devices, column 12, line 53-55) system in accordance with claim 36, characterized in that said system further comprises means for generating a unique global identifier (see claim interpretation)for

each of at least subset of said controlled apparatus.

Claim 49. A method in accordance with claim 36, characterized in that said method further comprises generation of a unique global identifier (see claim interpretation)reflecting at least the manufacturer, type, class of device and particular unit of each of at least a subset of said controlled apparatus.

Claim 50. A method in accordance with claim 36, characterized in that said method further comprises: transmitting command signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)from a control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)unit to all devices of said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)connected to a bus, for purposes of identifying elements of said controlled apparatus; and each element of said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)responding by transmitting an identifier as a signal.

Claim 51. A method in accordance with claim 36, characterized in that said method further comprises having an identifier recording unit receiving identifier signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)and converting said identifier signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)to unique identifiers, and storing said identifiers in memory.

Claim 52. A method in accordance with claim 36, characterized in that said method

further comprises placement of a device indicator adjacent to a device of said controlled apparatus, and triggering said device to transmit its identifier by means of a control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)bus to a control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)unit.

Claim 54. A method in accordance with claim 36, characterized in that said method further comprises transmission of all signals (figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378)between said control (e.g., home controller, column 1, line 63)apparatus and said controlled apparatus (figure 7, elements 372, 370,374,376,378)as wireless signals(figure 7, the IR signals emanating from 372 to elements 372, 370,374,376,378).

Conclusion

18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants' disclosure:

- US Patent 7,277,930 discloses a correlation system for use with a lighting system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Tom Stevens whose telephone number is 571-272-3715.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, please contact examiner's supervisor Mr. Albert Decady (571-272-3819). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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